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REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of new claims 11 through 24, in view of the above amendments and the arguments set forth below.

The Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action mailed April 8, 2004, that claims 5 and 9 as originally submitted were directed to allowable subject matter. New independent claim 11 is directed to the same subject matter as original claim 5 and therefore should be in condition for allowance together with its dependent claims, claims 12 through 14.

I. THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The present application was originally filed with claims 1 through 10. All of the original claims are cancelled above and new claims 11 through 24 are added. Claims 11 through 24 are now pending in this case in light of the above amendments.

II. THE REJECTIONS UNDER SECTION 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,001,016 to Walker et al. (the "016 patent"). The Applicants believe the new claims are not anticipated by the 016 patent.

As mentioned above, new independent claim 11 is directed to the subject matter of original claim 5. In particular, claim 11 requires "storing a group of game records and a reserve group of game records at a storage device" and then reading a game record from the group of game records in response to a game play request (element (b)) and reading a game record from

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1 the reserve group of game records in response to a subsequent game play request "received after
2 a certain amount of game records from the group of game records have been used" (element (d)).
3 Because the 016 patent does not teach or suggest these method steps, the Applicants submit that
4 claim 11 is entitled to allowance together with its dependent claims, claims 12 through 14.

5 New claim 15 is directed to a method in which a subset of game records are stored at a
6 central computer and player accounts are stored at a separate database computer. In response to a
7 game play request the method includes (i) reading a selected one of the game records stored at
8 the central computer, (ii) modifying the respective player account for the player at the database
9 computer in accordance with the game play request and a result associated with the selected
10 game record, and (iii) notifying the player of the result associated with the selected game record
11 (as required at element (d) of claim 11).

12 In contrast to these requirements, the 016 patent discloses essentially a proxy play gaming
13 system in which a participant at a remote terminal 5 can obtain results produced at a slot machine
14 2 on a slot machine network 3. The system disclosed in the 016 patent includes a slot network
15 server 4 shown in Figure 3 as a single computer. The participant at the remote terminal 5 either
16 obtains live results from one of the slot machines 2 (as described in the 016 patent beginning at
17 Col. 10, beginning at line 10) or obtains historical outcomes of a slot machine stored in a
18 database 449 at the slot network server 4 (as described at the top of Col. 12 of the 016 patent). It
19 is noted in particular that the player database 444 shown in Figure 3 of the 016 patent is located
20 at the same computer as the slot machine database 449 that may store historical slot play
21 outcomes. Thus, the 016 patent does not teach or suggest storing game records at a central

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1 computer, storing player accounts at a database computer, and modifying the player accounts as
2 required in element (d) of claim 11.

3 For all of these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 15 is not
4 anticipated by the 016 patent and is entitled to allowance together with its dependent claims,
5 claims 16 through 20.

6 New independent claim 21 is directed to a gaming system that includes a central
7 computer having a game record storage device storing a group of game records, a database
8 computer in communication with the central computer and storing a number of player accounts,
9 and a number of player terminals in communication with the central computer. The central
10 computer is configured to respond to a player account modification request from one of the
11 player terminals by directing the database computer to modify a player account associated with
12 the player account modification request.

13 As discussed above, the 016 patent does not include a computer for storing game records
14 and a separate computer for storing player accounts. The 016 patent also does not teach or
15 suggest a central computer that directs a database computer to modify a player account in
16 response to an account modification request.

17 For all of these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 21 is not
18 anticipated by the 016 patent and is entitled to allowance together with its dependent claims,
19 claims 22 through 24.

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1 III. ADDITIONAL PRIOR ART CITED PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)

2 The Applicants are submitting, under separate cover, an additional Information
3 Disclosure Statement (IDS) under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). This IDS includes a set of system
4 standards issued by Washington state. The IDS also includes information on a predecessor
5 system to the gaming system disclosed in the present application. The Applicants believe that the
6 claims as amended are allowable over all of the prior art of record in this case, including the
7 additional art cited in the above-described IDS.

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2 For all of the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully request consideration and
3 allowance of new claims 11 through 24.

4 If the Examiner should feel that any issue remains as to the allowability of these claims,
5 or that a conference might expedite allowance of the claims, he is asked to telephone the
6 Applicants' attorney, Russell D. Culbertson, at the number listed below prior to issuing a further
7 action.

8 Respectfully submitted,

9 The Culbertson Group, P.C.

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11 Dated: 7 Oct 2004By: 

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20 CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

21 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (Fax
22 No. (703) 872-9306) on October 7, 2004.

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